CLAIMS:

1.   Method of searching data in a peer to peer network connecting peers, wherein peers are enabled to store data objects received from a data source, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) Submitting a search query from the first peer;

5   (b) Forming a private network with at least one further peer connected to the peer to peer network, the further peer satisfying at least one criterion determined by the first peer;

(c) Searching for data objects stored by peers connected by the private network, the data matching the search query; and

(d) Returning the result of the search executed in the previous step to the first peer.

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2.   Method according to claim 1, wherein

(a) peers are enabled to subscribe to at least one data delivery service and to store data objects received from the data delivery service; and

(b) the criterion is subscription to at least one data delivery service to which the first peer is

15   subscribed as well.

3.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the criterion is derived from the search query and the private network is formed after submission of the search query.

20 4.   Method according to claim 2, wherein the data delivery service is a broadcast service provider and the data objects are streams of audio-visual data.

5.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the data objects have meta-data associated with them and the step of searching for data objects comprises analysis of the

25 meta-data.

6.   Method according to claim 5, wherein the meta-data comprises a content reference identifier.

7.   Method according to claim 6, wherein the content reference identifier points to a further document and the method comprises the step of searching the further document for the search query.

8.   Method according to claim 2, wherein the result of the search only comprises data objects that match the query and that have been received from at least one content delivery service the first peer is subscribed to.

9.   Method according to claim 8, wherein the data objects have meta-data associated with them and information on the content delivery service that has delivered a data object can be derived from the meta-data associated with the data object.

10.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the data objects comprise meta-data and the step of searching for data comprises the step of analysing the meta-data.

11.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the data source is at least one of the following:

(a) Peers of the peer to peer network;

(b) A Cable broadcast provider;

(c) A terrestrial broadcast provider;

(d) A satellite broadcast provider

12.   Computer being programmed to perform the method according to claim 1.

13.   Apparatus for searching data in a peer to peer network connecting peers, comprising a receiver unit for receiving data objects from a data source, a storage device to store the data objects and a central processing unit being programmed to:

(a) Form a private network with at least one further peer connected by the peer to peer network, the further peer satisfying at least one criterion determined by the apparatus;

(b) Submit a search query to the private network;

(c) Receive results from the further peer, the results matching the query.

14.   Computer programme product for programming a computer enabling the computer to perform the method according to claim 1.